

Washington, DC – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today announced that Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, Inc. (VRSI) received a grant of \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide homeless veterans with job training aimed at helping them succeed in civilian careers. During the application process Congressman Farr submitted a letter of support, recognizing the important work of Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist in assisting local Central Coast veterans. (Official letter attached)

“We have a fundamental duty to care for those that have bravely served our country in defense of our ideals and way of life,” said Congressman Farr. “This grant will go a long way in providing a much needed helping hand to our brave central coast veterans that have fallen on hard times. I want to commend the Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for their steadfast support and dedication to helping our veterans lead successful lives after their service.”

The grant awarded by the Labor Department’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS), will be used to support a vocational rehabilitation program that assists in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment. The VRSI program works with a sustainable retail thrift store to employ veterans from the Veterans Transition Center.

“Too many of our veterans face difficulty making the transition from military service to the civilian labor force, and too many battle homelessness as a result,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “These grants will help more than 3,000 veterans in communities across the country access the resources they need to find good jobs and build bright futures for themselves and their families.”

As announced by President Obama today, nationwide a total of 23 grants totaling \$5.4 million were awarded as part of a new initiative to strengthen the economy and our nation's commitment to supporting veterans and active service members. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations. These agencies are familiar with the areas and populations to be served and have demonstrated that they can administer effective programs.

□

More information on the Department of Labor's unemployment and re-employment programs for veterans can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/vets> .

##